

TOP INDUSTRIES

OF AMARILLO & THE TEXAS PANHANDLE

Amarillo's assets extend far beyond its agricultural commodities and vast land resources. The Texas Panhandle's economy encompasses a diverse group of industries, from livestock and food technologies to renewable energy and logistics. Each industry helps maintain the region's, as well as Amarillo's, economic health. Here's a look at the top industries of the Texas Panhandle.

In the late 1980s, the Amarillo area faced paltry business conditions and limited employment opportunities for area residents. At that time, the unemployment rate was higher than the national average and consumer activity was in a state of decline. Fast forward 30 years, and Amarillo touts an **unemployment rate lower than the national average** and a diverse industry list. National reports consistently list Amarillo as one of the **"Best Cities to Start a Business."**

NUMBER OF BUSINESSES



AMARILLO

10,593

businesses

128,837

person labor force



POTTER COUNTY

7,551

businesses



RANDALL COUNTY

4,843

businesses

TOP 4 LEADING INDUSTRIES BY JOB IN POTTER COUNTY



1

HEALTHCARE & SOCIAL SERVICES



2

RETAIL



3

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD SERVICES



4

MANUFACTURING

TOP 4 LEADING INDUSTRIES BY JOB IN RANDALL COUNTY



1

RETAIL



2

EDUCATION



3

HEALTHCARE & SOCIAL SERVICES



4

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD SERVICES

MAJOR INDUSTRIES OF THE TEXAS PANHANDLE



WIND ENERGY

The Texas Panhandle region is home to Class 4 and 5 winds, making it the Capital of Wind.

- Amarillo is one of the top areas for generating wind energy, with Texas being the largest producer of wind power in the country.
- Amarillo sits in the Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ), which enables the transmission of 18,500 megawatts of wind power upwards of 3,500 miles. The CREZ represents \$7B in new infrastructure investment by the State of Texas.
- Google is a major investor of the Panhandle 2 wind farm in Carson County.
- Amarillo's average wind speed is 13.1 mph. Approximately 20 wind farms operate in the Texas Panhandle.



AVIATION & AEROSPACE

Thanks to progressive companies like Bell Helicopter, Amarillo produces some of the latest aviation advancements, many of which impact the entire globe.

- Bell Helicopter builds the V-22 Osprey and the 525 Relentless, and is upgrading the Cobra and Huey for 21st-century military missions.
- Bell Helicopter employs more than 1,100 Texas Panhandle residents.
- Measuring 13,502 feet, Rick Husband International Airport's runway is one of the longest commercial runways in the U.S.
- The runway can accommodate a space shuttle landing.
- The Transportation Security Administration named Rick Husband International Airport "Airport of the Year" for its exceptional customer service and security.
- Three carriers serve the Amarillo airport, departing to several major metro areas daily including Dallas, Houston, Denver, and Las Vegas.



AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK

Our region's livestock, dairy, and crops help feed the world.

- Amarillo alone boasts 14 million acres (57,000 km²) of agricultural land.
- Primary crops produced include corn, wheat, cotton, sorghum, silage, hay, and soybeans.
- In 2013, food manufacturing accounted for \$216 million in exports, making it Amarillo's largest export category.
- Micro Beef Technologies Ltd operates a facility in Amarillo and is one of the largest animal health distributors in the U.S. that serves the companion animal, equine, and livestock markets.
- The Texas Panhandle is the third-largest milk-producing area in the country.
- Since 2007, dairy-cow numbers have increased from 20,000 head to 300,000.



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Companies in this area are discovering new and improved ways to produce food.

- Hilmar Cheese serves customers in more than 50 countries.
- Pacific Cheese processes cheese on behalf of Sargento and Wal-Mart.
- Tyson Fresh Meats Plant employs 3,700 Texas Panhandle residents.



DIVERSIFIED MANUFACTURING

This area's manufacturing industry benefits domestic and international markets.

- Sage Oil Vac is just one of just 64 companies across the U.S. to receive a 2014 President's E Award from the Commerce Department.
- GRI Renewable Industries plant has invested \$41M in its wind energy parts plant located at the CenterPort Business Park.



TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Amarillo's central location and convenient access to a multitude of transportation options makes it well suited for distribution and logistics operations.

- Amarillo is situated on I-40, equidistant to both coasts as well as access to I-27.
- Amarillo offers central access to major U.S. markets via two rail lines.
- Amarillo is the largest city between Dallas and Denver as well as Albuquerque and Oklahoma City.
- Amarillo possesses Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) 252 status, which removes barriers between local companies and international markets.
- Additionally, Amarillo is home to BNSF Rail's Southern Transcon route. This route runs from Chicago to Los Angeles, with the Amarillo section housing four mains and a crew change point.
- Access to infrastructure allows companies such as Ben E. Keith and Affiliated Foods to transport products to customers throughout the South Central region.

To learn more about how Amarillo can help your business succeed, contact the Amarillo EDC to start the conversation.

[START A CONVERSATION](#)



Sources: Applied Geographic Solutions, The Perryman Group, GIS Planning